

ORIGINAL ACTION		
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ARMY	CIA	NAVY
3	16	10
OSD	USIA	NSA
34	10	3
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AIRGRAM

EXCISE 186 E
B-1 AB
BL 23-2 GUATEL
FOR RM USE ONLY ED

A-167
NO.
SECRET/NO FOREIGN DISSEM

TO : Department of State
EO 11652 XGDS 2
TAGS PINS

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC:RA
REVIEWED BY Eay DATE 10 OCT 1973
PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

FROM : Amembassy Guatemala DATE: August 14, 1973

SUBJECT: INTERNAL SECURITY: Monthly Report of incidents, July 1973

REF :

SUMMARY: The July total of 66 press-reported incidents was the highest since January 1973. The GOG sought to portray the two week teachers strike as Communist controlled but most observers saw it as genuinely motivated by economic grievances. Communists scattered subversive leaflets and hoisted a banner in the capital during the night of July 12-13. The machinegun killing of a woman two days later has been tied to the propaganda incident. Twelve unidentified bodies, all showing signs of torture, were found in different parts of the country during the period July 23-27. Military sweep operations continued on the South Coast and were initiated in the Lake Izabal area. END SUMMARY.

I. Statistics: The July total of 66 press-reported incidents of a probable political nature was the highest since January 1973 (also 66), and above both the January-June monthly average (51) and the 1972 average (63). Statistics included 40 assassinations, also the highest since January 1973, and 14 kidnappings. Victims this month were 8 small-scale farmers and peasants, 3 ranchers, 2 military commissioners, 2 National Police detectives, 2 private policemen, a farm administrator, a lawyer and a small businessman. The Far Left appears to have initiated 4 (6%) of the incidents: the Government security forces may have been involved in at least 4 more, and the remainder (88%) were not readily attributable.

FORM 4-62 DS-323
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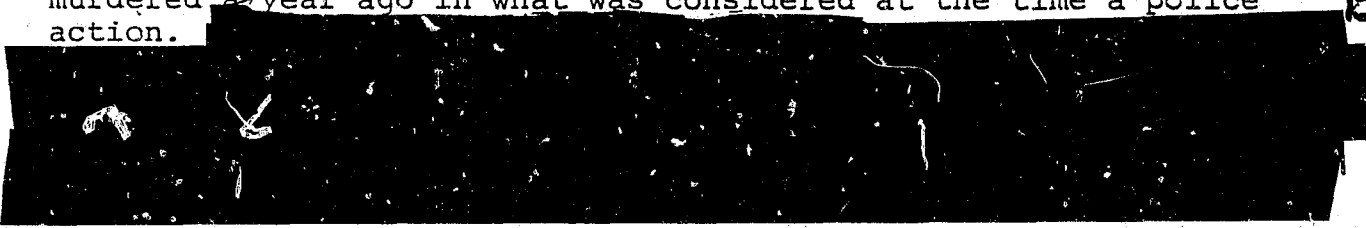
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Comment: Although the July total matches the highest recorded this year, it is not an unusually high figure and was surpassed 5 times during 1972. It still is too early to judge whether this month's increase reflects heightened pre-election tension.

II. GOG Sees Red in Teachers Strike: The GOG tried hard to portray the two week teachers strike (July 19-August 3) as Communist-controlled. On July 20 the "Death Squad" (Escuadron de Muerte) sent threatening letters to five leaders of the National Teachers Movement (FNM) and distributed leaflets claiming that the strike was part of a PGT plot to overthrow the regime. The following week the Government charged that the teachers movement had "fallen under the control of subversive and extremist elements." The police claimed they had captured one FAR member and identified two others infiltrated among the strikers.

Comment: It is possible that PGT-related groups infiltrated the teachers movement and attempted to use the strike for their own ends, but the strike was genuinely motivated by economic grievances and there is no evidence it was ever "controlled" by subversive elements.

III. PGT Leaflets and GOG Revenge: Large numbers of PGT leaflets pledging elimination of "delinquents" and a FAR banner calling for rebellion against the Government were discovered in the capital during the night of July 12-13. Two days later Maria Antioneta Velásquez de Fernández was machinegunned to death at her home by men who announced they were from "the printing shop." The press reported that the victim's son had been kidnapped and murdered a year ago in what was considered at the time a police action.



IV. Guerrilla Attack in Jutiapa: A heavily armed group attacked a mobile military police station in Agua Blanca, Jutiapa, July 23, leaving behind one dead after a 15 minute shoot-out. The press suspected that the assailants were guerrillas who have operated in the area for two years.

V. Unidentified Bodies: Twelve naked bodies, all showing signs of torture, were found in different parts of the country during the period July 23-27. In nearly all cases the fingertips had been removed, making identification difficult. The discovery of six of the bodies in Chiquimula and two in El Progreso resulted in the Eastern Region leading geographic areas in violence for the

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first time in over a year.

VI. Fingero Released: Federico Timeus, kidnapped June 30 in Quezaltenango, was freed July 7 after his family reportedly paid \$50,000 ransom.



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VII. Military Operations: The Army continued its sweep operations on the South Coast. Squad and platoon size sweeps of the Lake Izabal area began in late July.

VIII. Miscellaneous Actions: Among the assassination victims this month were two National Police detectives, one of whom was chief detective for the Second Police Corps. In an apparently nonpolitical incident two assailants shot to death the son of a resident American businessman and raped his companion, an American exchange student.



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Attachment

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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B (2)

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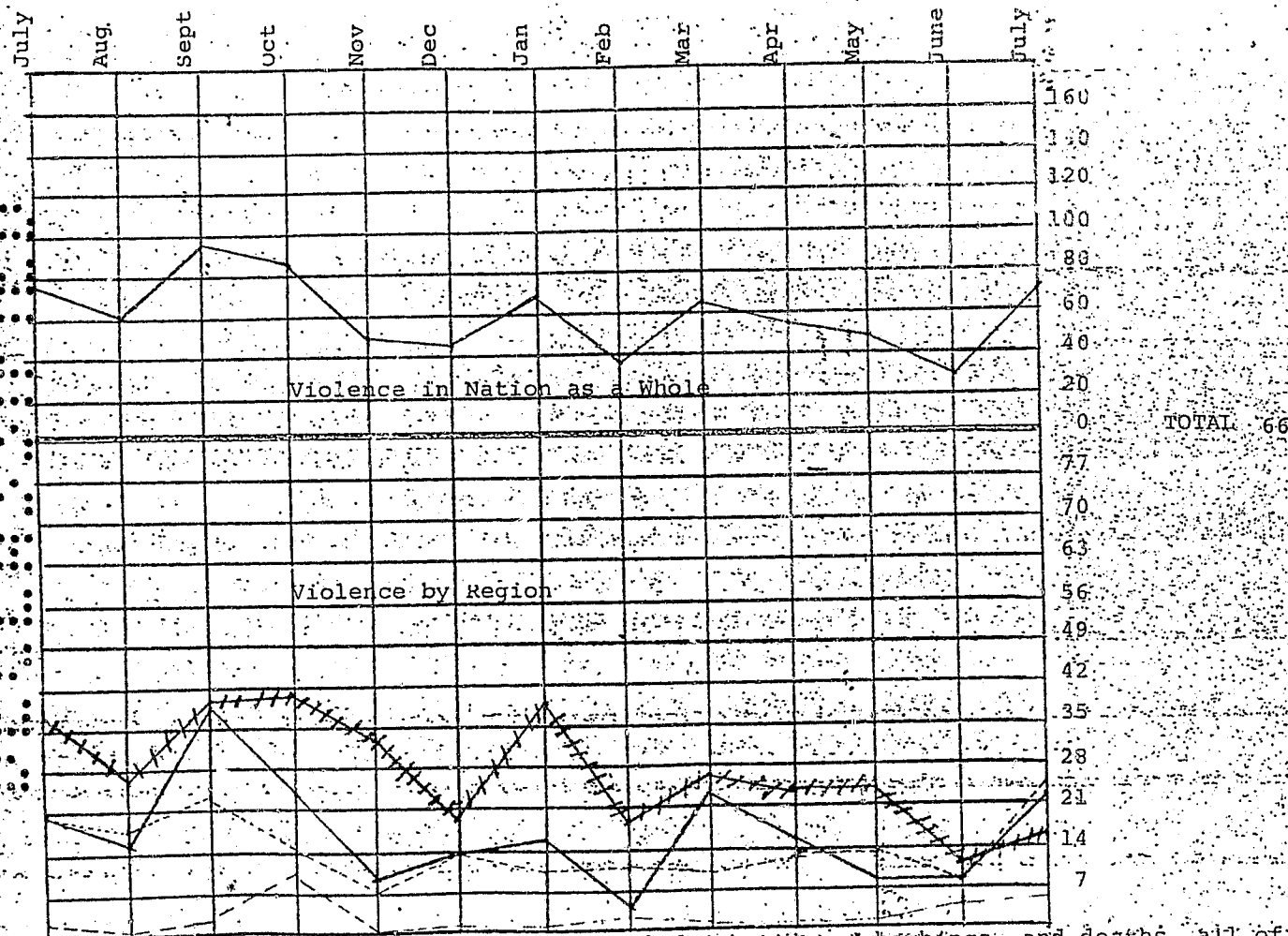
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Guatemala
ENCLOSURE

MONTHLY FREQUENCY OF POLITICAL INCIDENTS BY REGION - JULY 1972 - JULY 1973



For purposes of this graph, acts of violence include shootings, bombings, and deaths, all of which appear to be politically motivated.

Capital area - Sacatepequez, Guatemala

South Coast - San Marcos, Quezaltenango, Retalhuleu, Suchitepequez, Escuintla, Santa Rosa

Eastern Region - Jutiapa, El Progreso, Jalapa, Zapana, Chiquimula, Izabal, El Peten

Highlands - Totonicapan, Chimaltenango, Huehuetenango, El Quiche, Baja Verapaz, Alta Verapaz, Solola